

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069127 TOSEC 030058
ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069127 TOSEC 030058

FOR ASSTSEC HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, HU, OVIP (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - SIGNATURE
OF CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WITH
HUNGARY (S/S 7708608)

REF: BUDAPEST 1008 AND PREVIOUS

1. ALTHOUGH THE HUNGARIANS ARE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR
REVIEW OF THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC WORKING PROGRAM,
PROMISED TO US FOR MID-JANUARY, IN TIME FOR YOU TO SIGN
IT AND THE AGREEMENT AS A PACKAGE, THE GOH HAS NOW TWICE
ASKED IF YOU WOULD SIGN THE PREVIOUSLY INITIALLED UM-
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BRELLA AGREEMENT WHILE YOU ARE IN BUDAPEST. THIS, WE BE-
LIEVE, GOES BEYOND NORMAL COURTESY AND INDICATES A STRONG
GOH DESIRE CONTINUE MOVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS.

2. THE HUNGARIANS HAVE TAKEN AN ADVANCED POSITION WITHIN
THE WARSAW PACT ON CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND REPORTEDLY
HAVE STOOD UP AGAINST THE SOVIETS AND OTHERS IN DEFENSE

OF THEIR RELATIVELY LIBERAL STANCE AT THE MARCH 2-3 SOFIA CONFERENCE OF PARTY IDEOLOGICAL SECRETARIES AND ELSEWHERE AS WELL. THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONCLUDE THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT WITH US NOW SEEMS TO BE ANOTHER INDICATOR OF THIS RELATIVELY FORWARD HUNGARIAN POSITION. THEREFORE WE BELIEVE IT

WOULD BE IN THE US INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE THIS LINE BY CONCLUDING THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT DURING YOUR VISIT. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY IN HUNGARIAN MINDS REGARDING THE FUTURE COURSE OF DETENTE, THE HUNGARIANS DECISION TO SEEK YOUR SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT (WHICH OF COURSE WOULD IMPLEMENT CSCE OBJECTIVES) REPRESENTS A POSITIVE OFFER ON THEIR PART, WHICH WE SHOULD ACCEPT BOTH TO CONTINUE POLITICAL MOMENTUM IN OUR RELATIONS AND TO SUPPORT CONTINUED POSITIVE IMPLEMENTATION BY HUNGARY OF CSCE GOALS. EMBASSY BUDAPEST HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THIS WILL PROVIDE A SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR YOUR VISIT AND THAT A NEGATIVE REPLY MAY CREATE THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT WE DO NOT WISH VISIBLE RESULTS FROM YOUR VISIT. WE ALREADY HAVE CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY FOR YOU TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT. DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR USE AT SIGNING CEREMONY AND PRESS RELEASE (FOR ISSUANCE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN WASHINGTON AND BUDAPEST) HAVE BEEN PREPARED AS CONTINGENCY AND COULD BE SENT TO YOU IN ADVANCE.

3. RONAI'S REPETITION OF THE PROPOSAL TO CHARGE MUDD ON MARCH 28 (REFTEL) THAT YOU SIGN THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT TENDS TO NEGATE THE ARGUMENT THAT WE WOULD BE FORCING THE PACE OF RELATIONS. NEGATIVE ASPECTS DO REMAIN. WE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD LOSE SOME LEVERAGE OVER THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DRAFT PROGRAM WHICH THEY PRESENT WILL BE CLOSE TO THAT AGREED UPON ORALLY IN DISCUSSIONS IN BUDAPEST LAST DECEMBER AND THE GOH WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE US ASSURANCES THAT THE PROGRAM CAN BE WRAPPED UP WITHOUT DELAY. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY POSSIBLE LOSS OF LEVERAGE ON THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE BROADER ADVANTAGES ENTAILED IN SIGNING NOW, AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU AGREE TO SIGN THE PREVIOUSLY INITIALLED CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WITH THE HUNGARIANS DURING YOUR VISIT, PROVIDED THAT EMBASSY BUDAPEST CAN OBTAIN GOH ASSURANCE BEFORE HAND THAT THEY WILL PRESENT THE DRAFT WORKING PROGRAM WITHOUT FURTHER UNDUE DELAY AND WORK WITH US TOWARDS ITS RAPID FINALIZATION. APPROVE DISAPPROVE

5. DRAFTER:EUR/EE:THGERTH/RN, APPROVED:EUR:JAARMITAGE

CLEARANCE:CU/EE:YRICHMOND, OES/APT/SEP:RMORRIS (SUBS)

USIA/IEU:WLAWRENCE

D: LPASCOE

CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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